

It is presumed that duplicate specimens may be found there, under the name of *P. sessile*, and also in Koch's herbarium, which is deposited at the University of Illinois.

The distinctive features of this new species are the deeply immersed, strongly wrinkled capsules, completely lacking a peristome, smooth spores, cucullate calyptrae, and leaf cells without collenchymatous corner thickenings.

Herbarium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

REVIEWS

The Flora and Fauna of Solano County. Edited by WILMERE JORDAN NEITZEL. viii + 160 pp., illustrated in color. Solano County Office of Education, Fairfield, California. 1965. \$5.00.

The intent of this book is admirable; unfortunately its content leaves much to be desired. There are seven sections dealing with the wild flowers, trees, insects, fishes, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Each kind of plant or animal is illustrated by a colored drawing; some bear only a vague resemblance to what they are supposed to represent. Inaccuracies appear in practically every one of the 151 accounts dealing with plants. These range from misspellings, such as "*Eschscholtzia*" (p. 28), to statements that *Heteromeles arbutifolia* has two ovaries (p. 30), to comments that *Collinsia heterophylla* has bulbs which "when boiled yielded a molasses-like syrup which was very popular with the early Indians of this county who used it as a syrup on meal" (p. 14), to the inclusion of *Aconitum columbianum*, a plant which does not occur in Solano County (p. 7), to the manufacture of such nonexistent names as "Dodecatheon majus" (p. 28). One can only wish, as Katharine Brandegee did (*Zoe* 1:224. 1890), "that future Boards of Education who would probably employ a carpenter if they wished to build a house, will show their common sense by employing a botanist when they want a local flora."—JOHN H. THOMAS, Dudley Herbarium, Stanford University.

Atlas of North American Astragalus. By RUPERT C. BARNEBY. *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* 13:lv + 1-1188, illustrated, in two parts. 1964. Cloth, \$35.00; paperbound, \$30.00. Available from Stechert-Hafner, 31 East 10th St., New York, New York 10003.

This monograph is the culmination of many years of work on a particularly difficult genus of higher plants. Many earlier papers on *Astragalus* by Mr. Barneby appeared under the title of "Pugillus Astragalorum," indicating in an indirect way some of the difficulties encountered.

In all, 368 species of *Astragalus* are native in North America: only half a dozen have been introduced. Each species is fully described, synonymy is given, range is stated, good distribution maps are included, representative specimens are cited, and pertinent notes are presented. Illustrations of individual species are not included, but in a work of this length that is probably more than one can expect. Rather than prepare one very long key to all the taxa, Mr. Barneby has written 11 regional keys, a feature that local botanists will find most convenient.

This monograph is based on field and herbarium studies and as such indicates the kind of work that is still necessary in many, many groups before detailed biosystematic investigations can be carried out. Mr. Barneby is to be congratulated for his perseverance and patience in bringing forth this fine treatment.—JOHN H. THOMAS, Dudley Herbarium, Stanford University.